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Letter dated 22 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 December 2011 from Hilmi Akil, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 26 September 2011 addressed from the Greek Cypriot representative to the President of the General Assembly and circulated as a document of the General Assembly (A/66/396), which comprises the text of the written statement of the Greek Cypriot delegation in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, on 22 September 2011 in the General Assembly. In the face of unfounded allegations contained in that letter, I am compelled to set the record straight.

It must be reiterated at the outset that it is the Greek Cypriot Administration which has escalated the tension in the Eastern Mediterranean region through unlawful actions such as delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas and authorization of oil/natural gas exploration activities. These actions were undertaken despite repeated reminders from the Turkish Cypriot side that such issues and jurisdictions would be left to the discretion of the new partnership government that would result from the ongoing negotiation between the two sides on the island. Instead of heeding the call of the Turkish Cypriot side to focus on the solution of the Cyprus problem through the United Nations-led negotiations, the Greek Cypriot administration, purporting to be the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus", continues with its provocative behaviour, which further jeopardizes the stability in an already volatile region.

By trying to name a culprit other than itself for the increased tension in the area, the Greek Cypriot administration is, in fact, attempting to cover the ulterior motives behind its one-sided initiatives: to compromise and prejudge the Turkish Cypriots' inherent and legitimate right to the natural resources of the island.

In this context, it must be restated that the Greek Cypriot administration has no legal or moral right to represent or act on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot people or the island as a whole.

As an additional gain from its destructive activities, the Greek Cypriot side hopes for the derailment of the island's ongoing political negotiations, which have reached a critical stage — a stage which will no longer have room for foot-dragging or forestalling so prevalent in the Greek Cypriot political armoury.

Even though the Turkish Cypriot side is in principle opposed to such undertakings before a comprehensive solution, we were obliged to take certain steps in order to protect our inherent rights. The continental shelf delimitation agreement between the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the Republic of Turkey, signed on 21 September 2011, exploration permits granted on 22 September 2011 to the Turkish Petroleum Corporation by the Council of Ministers of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and the seismic survey activities of the Turkish side are all steps aimed at dissuading the Greek Cypriot side from the dangerous path it has embarked upon, which threatens the very foundation of a solution as envisioned by the United Nations parameters and relevant Security Council resolutions. It must be stated once again that the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in cooperation with Turkey, is determined to take the necessary steps to protect the ipso facto rights

and interests of the Turkish Cypriot people as the co-owners of the island and its natural resources.

Regarding the denigrating reference to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the aforementioned text, I would like to remind the Greek Cypriot delegation that the Turkish intervention, carried out in accordance with Turkey's rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, was the direct result of the bloody coup d'état carried out by the joint Greek-Greek Cypriot front, which was aimed at the annexation of the island to Greece and the annihilation of the Turkish Cypriot people in line with the notorious Akritas Plan. Therefore, contrary to the Greek Cypriot delegation's claim, it must be noted that the only occupation in the island is the 46-year-long occupation of the seat of the "Government of Cyprus" by the Greek Cypriot administration.

Finally, it must be stressed that throughout the recent period of tension, it was the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus which had demonstrated a firm commitment to peace, stability and cooperation in the island and the region. The President, Derviş Eroğlu, did his utmost to resolve the crisis in a peaceful and equitable manner with his proposal presented to the Secretary-General on 24 September 2011, which provided for the Secretary-General's mediation, as well as the cooperation of the two sides in an ad hoc tripartite committee for the fair sharing of natural resources, whereby the revenue would be used to finance the implementation of the provisions of an eventual comprehensive settlement expected to be reached through the current United Nations negotiation process.

Rather than embracing this proposal as a constructive way forward, the Greek Cypriot leadership has opted to continue with its unilateral acts and aggressive stance to the disappointment of many an interested party. President Eroğlu's proposal continues to be on the table.

Despite the Greek Cypriot side's provocative actions, the Turkish Cypriot side shall continue displaying the necessary goodwill and channel its efforts towards overcoming all obstacles in the formation of a new partnership in Cyprus, in line with the established United Nations parameters. The Greek Cypriot administration must be reminded to discontinue its malicious campaigns against the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey, aimed at diverting international attention from its provocative actions in the Eastern Mediterranean, and encouraged to focus on the negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations in order to bring about a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem.

(*Signed*) Hilmi **Akil**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus